



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 March 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to the Seattle Times, a wanted felon arrested last Wednesday may be responsible for stealing nearly 20,000 gallons of gasoline at fueling stations in Washington and Oregon. (See item [3](#))
- CNN reports officials in Minnesota have closed a major bridge on the Mississippi River, citing safety concerns. A recent inspection showed bending in plates that connect steel beams that support the span. (See item [13](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

## **Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:** Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Connecticut; New York) **Feds OK gas terminal between L.I., Conn.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Thursday approved a \$700 million liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal proposed for Long Island Sound, a facility opposed by the state of Connecticut and other critics who say it would damage the environment and be vulnerable to a terrorist attack. The 1,200-foot-long, 82-foot-high terminal would be located nine miles from Long Island and ten miles from Connecticut. Connecticut's attorney general said he plans to ask for an immediate rehearing on FERC's decision. A study by the Government Accountability Office released last year found that an accident or terrorist attack on an LNG tanker ship could create a fire so intense it would burn people a mile away. FERC added more than 80

conditions to the project, which include creating a seven-tenths-of-a-mile safety and security zone around the terminal where commercial and recreational activity would be restricted. In a January report, FERC cited threats of leaks from ship collisions, groundings, or terrorism. Plans have called for construction to begin in October 2009.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h5x3TdRbmJ1IX2wzurNDgX56PqwgD8VHKJ780>

2. *March 21, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Theft causes power outage.** A copper thief not only led Polk County deputies on a search for the stolen metal, but also left thousands of residents without electricity Thursday. Nearly 4,000 residents were without power from 10 a.m. to noon after copper wire was stripped from an active transformer at a Tampa Electric Co. power facility, said a spokesperson for TECO. He said the robber cut through a fence to get to the transformer. The sheriff's office estimated damage at \$500,000. Deputies are investigating the theft, but they do not have a suspect, said a sheriff's spokesperson. Deputies think the suspect is linked to a Tuesday copper robbery at another electric-company site, she said.

Source: [http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/state/orl-cfbriefs21\\_308mar21,0,5808770.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/state/orl-cfbriefs21_308mar21,0,5808770.story)

3. *March 20, Seattle Times* – (Oregon; Washington) **Suspect arrested in thefts of 20,000 gallons of gas along I-5 in Washington, Oregon.** A wanted felon arrested in Pierce County, Washington, on Wednesday may be responsible for stealing nearly 20,000 gallons of gasoline at fueling stations in Washington and Oregon. The man is believed to have tampered with at least 15 gas pumps along the Interstate 5 corridor – allowing him to fill several 55-gallon drums for free, said a King County, Washington, police official. The man then resold the fuel for about half of what gas stations were charging. Police in King County, Washington, and other areas said they have seen an increase in gas theft in recent weeks as the price per gallon has climbed.

Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2004295485\\_webgastheft20m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2004295485_webgastheft20m.html)

4. *March 20, Associated Press* – (National) **High gas prices revive urban oil fields.** With oil prices at \$110 a barrel, producers nationwide are suddenly taking a second look at decades-old wells that were considered tapped out and unprofitable when oil sold for one-fifth the price or less. Independent producers and major conglomerates alike are reinvesting millions in these mature wells, using expensive new technology and drilling techniques to eke every last drop out of fields long past their prime. In California, between 50 and 100 abandoned “orphan wells” have been brought back online. In Texas, producers filed more than 5,000 applications to unplug or upgrade old wells or drill new ones last year – an increase of nearly 2,000 from five years before. In central Wyoming, companies are using carbon dioxide injections to coax more out of declining oil fields. In Oklahoma, state lawmakers agreed to ban the practice of plugging lower-producing wells, so producers could drain every last drop. The boom has strained the industry, and a shortage of working oil rigs means companies who do not own their own equipment can wait six months to secure a rig and crew. A Texas producer said he

spends between \$700,000 and \$3 million per site to re-enter old wells.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8VHBFEO0.htm>

5. *March 19, Bloomberg* – (Midwest; South) **Storms move east after causing Midwest floods.** At least four tornadoes were reported last week, causing widespread electricity failures. Winds of as much as 75 mph knocked down trees and power lines in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas, according to the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aR9Vqo3co75A&refer=us>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry Sector**

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

6. *March 21, Tri-City Herald* – (Idaho) **DOE to reduce pay for Battelle Energy Alliance.** The Department of Energy (DOE) plans to reduce the pay for Battelle Energy Alliance for fiscal year 2007 because of safety violations at the Idaho National Laboratory it manages and operates. The pay reduction covers two incidents. DOE said the contractor failed to identify hazards, prevent hazards, provide adequate training, adhere to procedures, and comply with fire protection requirements. The fee reduction is the first enforcement action under DOE's Worker Safety and Health rule that took effect in February 2007.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/133938.html>

7. *March 21, KOLD 13 Tucson* – (Arizona) **UA emergency drill.** Tucson firefighters are taking part in a drill at the University of Arizona's Nuclear Reactor Laboratory. Drills like this take place annually to make sure emergency crews and university personnel are ready for anything. "Not always with Tucson Fire, maybe it's just the Police Department. The scenarios will vary, we dream them up," said the reactor's supervisor. When the firefighters went into the lab, they encountered a patient with a large lead tube over his legs. They had to remove the lead, get the patient out and decontaminate him to complete the drill. "We got a drill that we could possibly see even though it's not very likely. It's mostly for their training and their experience," said the reactor's supervisor. After the radiation drill was over, the Tucson Fire Department captain said all departments were prepared.

Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=8047010&nav=14RT>

8. *March 20, Seattle Post Intelligencer* – (Washington) **53 million gallons in danger of leaking.** Is it time to build new underground tanks at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation? It is a proposition that has been avoided for fear that it would cost too much and give the

Energy Department license to further drag its feet in cleaning up the waste. But most of the existing tanks should have been decommissioned years ago. The older ones are 30 to 50 years past their intended lifetime. The newer tanks were built in 1986. “These things are falling apart in the ground while we speak,” said the executive director of Hanford Challenge, a watchdog group. Some of the risks are catastrophic – tanks so rotted that they collapse under the weight of pumps and other gear used to remove the waste, or shake apart in an earthquake. A much more likely threat is continued leaking. Energy Department officials said new tanks are not an option. “We don’t recommend, and we aren’t discussing, building new double-shell tanks,” said an acting department manager for tank cleanup. The department believes that current engineering data show that the tanks “structurally are sound and not in danger of any near-term collapse or failures,” he said. This year, however, they are convening a panel of experts to examine their integrity for continued storage.

Source: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/355909\\_tanks21.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/355909_tanks21.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

9. *March 21, Aviation Week* – (National) **Northrop crafts multimission N-UCAS.**

Northrop Grumman officials are promoting their unmanned strike aircraft being designed for the U.S. Navy as a “first-generation” unmanned combat aerial system with capabilities that include boost-phase intercept of enemy ballistic missiles soon after launch and the carriage of new, compact directed-energy weapons. Options will include both laser and high-power microwave weapons. The new design also will address the U.S. military’s fading electronic-attack (EA) capability. The Air Force has failed to come up with a new EA capability for the near term, and by 2012, the Navy will retire its EA-6B Prowlers, which now provide that capability to the expeditionary air forces.

Source:

[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/NUCAS032108.xml&headline=Northrop%20Crafts%20Multimission%20N-UCAS](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/NUCAS032108.xml&headline=Northrop%20Crafts%20Multimission%20N-UCAS)

10. *March 20, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy’s ERGM may face cancellation.** A Raytheon official acknowledged March 20 there were “many rumors swirling around” the fate of its Extended Range Guided Munition (ERGM) program, including the possibility that it will be canceled. The price has tripled, rising from \$45,000 per weapon in 1997 to \$191,000 per weapon by 2006. As a result, the number of munitions to be bought was cut from more than 8,500 to about 3,150. A Navy official would not comment on the program’s fate. Cancellation of the ERGM would leave the Navy with only one other source for a long-range, precision 5-inch round – Alliant Techsystems, which is developing a ballistic trajectory extended-range munition (BTERM). The BTERM is similar to ERGM but has had serious test problems of its own. Both munitions were intended to give Navy ships the ability to strike targets with great accuracy from more than 50 miles away. If they worked, they would give some cruisers and destroyers long-range precision fire support from the sea for Marines ashore.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3437910&c=AME&s=SEA>

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

11. *March 21, WPSU* – (Pennsylvania) **Security breach at Pennsylvania voter registration website.** Pennsylvania's voter registration information web site has been shut down after officials discovered a security breach, which may have allowed information submitted by some users to be viewed by others. Information that may have been seen by unauthorized users includes names, addresses, driver's license numbers, and the last four digits of Social Security numbers. A spokeswoman for the Department of State told Public Radio Capitol News that, "The Department acted immediately to disable the Pennsylvania voter services website, and we are currently in the process of reviewing the facts to determine how this information became available, and we hope and plan on determining which applications were viewed so that those applicants can be contacted and notified as soon as possible." She says voter registration forms and other information are still available at the state website. "The form is still available online," she said, "however individuals won't have the option of typing in their information. They will need to print the form, handwrite the information, sign it and then mail it in." Source:

[http://publicbroadcasting.net/wpsu/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE\\_ID=1247760&sectionID=1](http://publicbroadcasting.net/wpsu/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1247760&sectionID=1)

12. *March 20, ZDNet Asia* – (International) **Banks under fire as phishing attacks accelerate.** Phishing attacks on banking organizations and their customers across the globe have increased steadily over the last six months, according to the latest fraud report from security software specialist RSA. The report said the number of banking brands targeted by phishing attacks reached 188 in February, up from a low of 153 in August 2006. Interestingly, European financial services hub Germany does not appear on RSA's list of top phishing destinations. In a whitepaper published last year, a senior researcher at the company observed: "There are certain geographical regions that are already almost exclusively hit by financial Trojans. For example, in Germany, more than 90 percent of online banking fraud is the direct result of Trojans. The same can be said for Benelux, Switzerland and other geographies. In these geographies, regulations or laws have mandated strong authentication at login for online banking services which makes simple fraud attacks like phishing, replaying credentials from stolen databases, or brute force guessing less effective." U.S. banking brands are the most targeted, with 59 percent of attacked entities being in that country. The United Kingdom comes in second for the 13th consecutive month, holding 12 percent of the brands being targeted. Ireland has appeared on the list of banking brand destinations for the first time this month, as has Brazil.

Source: <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/security/0,39044215,62039156,00.htm>

## **Transportation Sector**

13. *March 21, CNN* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota bridge ordered closed for safety concerns.** Officials in Minnesota have closed a major bridge on the Mississippi River, citing safety concerns, the state's transportation department announced Thursday. The bridge is about 60 miles northwest of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the Interstate 35W bridge collapsed August 1, 2007, during the evening rush hour, killing 13 people and injuring 145. A recent inspection showed bending in plates that connect steel beams that support the span. The 890-foot-long bridge in St. Cloud, Minnesota, was built in 1957. It carries four lanes of traffic and approximately 31,000 vehicles a day. In the weeks after the August collapse, the National Transportation Safety Board Chairman said investigators observed a "design issue" with the bridge's support plates. He did not elaborate. The state has since launched a statewide bridge inspection program, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.  
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/03/21/minnesota.bridge/?iref=mpstoryview>
14. *March 21, Fox News* – (National) **74,000 bridges at risk, rarely inspected.** Around the country, 74,000 bridges are classified as structurally deficient. Just this week in Minnesota, another bridge was closed to traffic — its condition so poor that it may be beyond repair. Experts believe another collapse is all but inevitable. These troubled bridges are a problem with no easy solution: Engineering estimates say it will take \$1.6 trillion to repair and replace them.  
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,340488,00.html>
15. *March 21, NetworkWorld* – (National) **New security software flies with FAA.** George Mason University researchers have developed software that they say helps nip cyber attacks in the bud by recognizing weak links across networks, not just in individual systems. Creation of this Center for Secure Information Systems software, dubbed CAULDRON (Combinatorial Analysis Utilizing Logical Dependencies Residing on Networks), was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, plus the defense and intelligence communities. The FAA is also using the software to prioritize security problems and sniff out attack paths, according to GMU. CAULDRON's unique approach, according to GMU, is its ability to add up what multiple vulnerabilities across a network might lead to in terms of an attack. According to the researchers, they plan to license the software and are currently in discussion with multiple companies. The technology has been extensively tested and was even the subject of a Master's thesis by a student from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.  
Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/community/node/26174>
16. *March 20, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Air controllers alerted military to unresponsive airliner.** Air traffic controllers alerted the military about a commercial jet flying from Honolulu to Hilo at 21,000 feet with 40 passengers that missed its landing and failed to respond to nearly a dozen calls. Despite a silent cockpit on Go! Airlines Flight 1002 over a span of 17 minutes, fighter jets were never scrambled to assist or escort, raising questions about a possible breakdown in security measures. "Didn't we learn our lesson from 9/11?" asked a former inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Transportation Department. "Why is it that there wasn't an interceptor up there trying to find out what was going on with that plane? Flight 1002,



which left Honolulu on February 13 at 9:16 a.m., ended up overshooting Hilo International Airport by 15 miles, according to the FAA. The pilots are being investigated by the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board for possibly falling asleep on the brief, 214-mile flight. None of Hawaii Air National Guard's F-15s was alerted, said a spokesman for the Guard. The Guard noted it only serves as responders, and decisions to scramble are made at a higher level. Officials at the Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Command did not return an e-mail or three phone calls seeking comment Thursday on why the fighter planes were not scrambled or called. A FAA spokesman said his agency "reported it in an appropriate manner," and noted it cannot order fighter jets to scramble.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/state/20080320-2026-wst-sleepingpilots.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

17. *March 20, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Henry County post office evacuated after employees get sick.** A Henry County, Georgia, post office was evacuated late Thursday morning after several employees became sick. The Henry County fire captain said a hazmat team was sent to the McDonough post office following an 11:30 a.m. 911 call. "The caller stated six employees were complaining of symptoms including dizziness and hives," she said. Three employees were taken to a local hospital for evaluation. No substance had been found, and fire crews had not determined what made the employees sick, she said early Thursday afternoon.

Source:

[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/henry/stories/2008/03/20/postoffice\\_0321.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/henry/stories/2008/03/20/postoffice_0321.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

18. *March 20, Brownfield Network* – (National) **USDA sees challenges for egg, beef, pork sectors.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued its latest Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook Wednesday. The USDA said wholesale egg prices are up 40 percent compared to the first quarter of last year due to a cut in production. But those high prices impacted egg exports, which fell 20 percent in January. As for the beef sector, cattle slaughter is expected to be slightly higher in the first quarter of this year than the first quarter of last year, which itself was 15 percent above the first quarter of 2006. The USDA said that is because drought continues in the Southeast and is spreading into the Southern and Northern Plains from Mexico and Canada. But beef prices have not plummeted this year. The reason, according to the USDA report, is because of strong beef exports, which were up 25 percent in 2007 and are expected to increase more modestly this year. U.S. pork slaughter, meanwhile, is expected to be up nearly ten percent in the first quarter, compared to the first quarter of last year. And average hog prices are expected to be 12 percent lower than the first quarter of 2007. That, the USDA report said, means many Iowa pork producers are currently operating at losses of

up to \$30 per hog.

Source: <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=CE127DC4-BCF5-F411-EAC9CDFA554DFDF3>

19. *March 20, FoodNavigator-USA.com* – (National) **Outdated safety processes contribute to rising public concern.** Confidence is waning in the U.S. food imports safety system, which is rooted in century-old legislation developed in response to food crises, according to a new report. The U.S. Food Import System: Issues, Processes, and Proposals was put together by the Food Policy Institute at the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station on the back of increasing volumes of food imports coupled with heavily publicized reports of contaminated foods. The report hopes to answer questions and concerns raised regarding the safety and control of food imports that were raised following multiple instances of contaminated food imported into the U.S. in 2007. Opinions on the import safety system are divided, with many calling for change from outdated legislation and limited resources, while others maintain improved science and technology are the reasons for a rise in recalls. Either way, consumer confidence is dropping, says the report, citing the International Food Information Council's findings that Americans are no longer "very confident" in the food supply. Source: <http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/news/ng.asp?n=84132-fda-food-policy-institute-import-safety-reforms>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

20. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Colo. City's salmonella source confirmed.** It could be three more weeks before residents of a southern Colorado town can drink water straight from the tap after dozens of cases of salmonella poisoning were linked to municipal water, putting seven people in the hospital. An analysis indicates the municipal water system in Alamosa is the source of the bacterial outbreak, as suspected, said the chief medical officer for the state health department. The earliest the city water system could be flushed is Tuesday, and disinfecting it and making sure it is safe could take many days, said the executive director of the state health department. Water agencies from Denver, Aurora and Fort Collins were helping. Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080321/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/salmonella\\_tap\\_water](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080321/ap_on_re_us/salmonella_tap_water)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

21. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Texas) **15 hepatitis infections tied to ex-nurse.** At least 15 military service members or their relatives are believed to have been infected with hepatitis by a nurse suspected of stealing their painkillers during surgery. The nurse was arrested this month in Miami on federal charges of assaulting three of those patients and possession of a controlled substance by fraud. Federal prosecutors said they believe the man spread the disease in 2004 during surgeries at an El Paso military hospital by diverting fentanyl — a powerful painkiller often used for anesthesia — from patients to



himself. The outbreak — and the nearly three-year-long criminal investigation that followed — apparently did not prevent the nurse, who has pleaded not guilty, from continuing to work as nurse in Texas and at least two other states and Washington, D.C.  
Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hHvETNsob9ac-d7IYjpQ-aOLgm2AD8VHN82O0>

22. *March 21, WDIO 10 Duluth* – (Minnesota) **Health officials investigating two flu-like illness deaths in same family.** The Minnesota Department of Health is investigating the deaths of two rural Itasca County men. Authorities say they had flu-like symptoms, but may have died from secondary bacterial infections. Health officials say the two deaths in one family are devastating, but not a reason to panic. The DOH estimates about 800 people in Minnesota die from the flu each year, most of them over the age of 65.  
Source: <http://www.wdio.com/article/stories/S385875.shtml?cat=10335>
23. *March 20, KVTU 2 San Francisco* – (California) **Department of public health penalizes four Bay Area hospitals.** The California Department of Public Health announced 11 hospitals, including four in the Bay Area, owe \$25,000 for causing serious injury or death to patients. The four Bay Area hospitals include Washington Hospital in Fremont, Valley Care Medical Center in Pleasanton, University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, and Natividad Medical Center in Salinas. They received penalties for not distributing or administering medicine according to policy, except the Natividad Medical Center. Natividad Medical Center had a patient on a 72-hour psychiatric hold as a danger to himself, who escaped from his room by sticking his foot between his doors as a nurse walked out. Police found and brought him back the next day. The California Department of Public Health oversees about 450 hospitals throughout the state and issues penalties through investigations responding to complaints, regular inspections, or “unusual occurrences” filed by the hospitals, said a spokeswoman. This is the second round of “administrative penalties” the department issued. Last October, it issued nine penalties with only one in the Bay Area.  
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/15660292/detail.html>
24. *March 20, Reuters* – (International) **India expands culling zone to contain bird flu.** Veterinary staff in safety gear began killing thousands of chickens on Thursday after expanding a culling operation to stop bird flu from spreading in an eastern Indian state. A fresh outbreak of bird flu was detected in West Bengal state’s Malda district where about 1,000 chickens had died in the past few days. Poultry sales in the eastern state fell by about 70 percent since the avian flu hit in January, officials said, but it has had limited impact elsewhere in the country. Veterinary staff were now killing not only the poultry at the affected farm in Malda, but also about 44,000 chickens and ducks in nearby areas to ensure the virus did not spread. India has not reported any human bird flu cases so far.  
Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/health/idINPAR05595620080320>
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## Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Emergency Services Sector

25. *March 21, KTVX 4 Salt Lake City* – (Utah) **Mock earthquake disaster held at St. Mark's Hospital.** On Thursday, St. Mark's Hospital in Salt Lake City held a mock earthquake drill to see how prepared they are, and to train personnel for the worst. According to the scenario, after the earthquake and strong aftershocks, the building of St. Mark's hospital is badly damaged and people are hurt. Some badly, but emergency crews evacuate the wounded quickly, while doctors and nurses try to control the chaos. A block away, an off-site triage is already in full swing. New moms and their babies are first priority. Doctors and nurses work in a MASH unit type situation, and they appear to have everything they need. More than 100 people were involved in this drill, and several agencies throughout the valley.

Source: [http://www.abc4.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=4ee5c805-df78-4183-8ec3-7bb3010829e1](http://www.abc4.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=4ee5c805-df78-4183-8ec3-7bb3010829e1)

26. *March 21, Salem News* – (Ohio) **U.S. 62 to close next Saturday for mock disaster drill.** Motorists will want to avoid U.S. Route 62 between Beloit-Snodes Road and 12th Street on March 29 when emergency personnel take over the highway for a mock disaster. The information coordinator for the Columbiana County, Ohio, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) said the full-scale hazardous materials exercise will be a joint venture with the Mahoning County LEPC, with more than 235 players expected to participate. He explained the scenario will involve an incident which occurs in the vicinity of the Agland Co-Op in Westville, the Skate Center and the Tri-City Airport which may involve hazardous materials. The LEPC is required by law to conduct a full-scale exercise once every four years, with the exercise to be graded by officials from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. He explained the exercise will test the response skills of emergency responders and the coordinating skills of the county EMAs and other agencies. The LEPC official said the mock drill has been in the planning stages for at least a year, with set objectives for each county. The LEPC is required to have a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan in place, besides offering hazardous materials training and keeping tabs on facilities within the county which are required to report their chemical inventory to the committee.

Source: <http://www.salemnews.net/news/articles.asp?articleID=10649>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Information Technology

27. *March 21, InfoWorld* – (National) **Thousands of Web sites under attack.** On March 12, McAfee's AVERT labs reported 10,000 Web pages using Active Server Pages (ASP) had been infected through SQL injection. A few days later, Microsoft employee

Neil Carpenter detected 14,000 maliciously-modified Web pages. After the initial SQL injection, the automated attack injected a malicious Javascript or Iframe code to redirect visitors to criminal-controlled Web sites. The malicious Web sites then attempted to invisibly exploit end-users using multiple, previously patched vulnerabilities, or if no vulnerabilities were found, attempted to socially engineer the visitor into running additional software. Following on the heels of this massive scale attack was another automated attack that made the first one seem small. McAfee reported more than 200,000 Web pages infected by an automated attack against phpBB software. phpBB is an open source Internet forum software product written in php. Users visiting an infected Web site were socially engineered into running additional (malicious) software programs. Web site hacking is very popular. Zone-h, which tracks web site defacements, reported almost 500,000 hacked Web sites in 2007. And this is obviously a serious under-count, as most of Zone-h's data is self-reported by the hackers who hacked the Web sites. The professional criminal gangs involved in the majority of the Web hacks today do not report their activities to Zone-h. Even more interesting is Zone-h's track of the mechanism the hacker used to attack the Web site. By far the most popular method was simple password sniffing/cracking/guessing, but they track attacks against the DNS servers and routers that protect the Web servers. Perhaps the most interesting new Web hack trend is where inputted search phrases end up causing malicious cross-site scripting or poison normal search results.

Source:

[http://weblog.infoworld.com/securityadviser/archives/2008/03/organized\\_crimi.html](http://weblog.infoworld.com/securityadviser/archives/2008/03/organized_crimi.html)

28. *March 21, EFluxMedia* – (New Jersey) **Sequoia voting systems admits to hackers attacking their website.** After New Jersey officials specifically asked e-voting machines used in the February 5 presidential primary elections to be submitted to an in-depth analysis, Sequoia Voting Systems, the retailer company, announced that its website became inaccessible on Thursday night due to unauthorized access. The company took action as soon as they realized what had happened and removed the “intrusive content,” a spokeswoman said, adding that the company took further security measures and proceeded to “security enhancements” in order to protect the website from similar attacks. The incident was uncovered by the computer scientists in charge of investigating the e-voting machines in the New Jersey case. According to the same source, he reported that around 6:30 a.m. Eastern Time, Sequoia's Ballot Blog had been replaced with a message saying it had been hacked, also including the name of the authors. When the New Jersey officials requested the investigation on the February 5 voting machines after unusual errors appeared, Sequoia Voting Systems threatened to attack the decision in court for violation of the license agreement. Sequoia has opposed releasing the machines citing concerns about intellectual property.

Source:

[http://www.efluxmedia.com/news\\_Sequoia\\_Voting\\_Systems\\_Admits\\_To\\_Hackers\\_Attacking\\_Their\\_Website\\_15405.html](http://www.efluxmedia.com/news_Sequoia_Voting_Systems_Admits_To_Hackers_Attacking_Their_Website_15405.html)

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Communications Sector**

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Dams Sector**

29. *March 21, Associated Press* – (Nevada) **Rodents caused Nev. canal flood.** Burrowing rodents caused a century-old irrigation canal to fail and flood a rural Nevada town in January, a team of scientific experts concluded in a report for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation made public Thursday night. Muskrats, beavers, gophers, and other rodents dug holes as deep as 25 feet into the earthen canal embankment over the years, according to the report. Water burst through a 50-foot breach in the weakened structure at 4 a.m. on January 5 and flooded hundreds of homes in Fernley, a community of about 20,000 residents about 30 miles east of Reno. As many as 600 homes were damaged by floodwater, which reached eight feet deep in some places, and the area was declared a federal and state disaster area.

Source:

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j7tkenw\\_rqtDikBIePZn9oLh5jBgD8VHNG6G0](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j7tkenw_rqtDikBIePZn9oLh5jBgD8VHNG6G0)

30. *March 21, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Dam in Elk County put on danger list.** The Army Corps of Engineers is trying to raise awareness that one of its dams in Elk County has some seepage problems and needs to be watched closely. “It’s serious, but the dam is not in imminent danger of failing,” said the public affairs officer for the Corps’ Pittsburgh district. The East Branch Dam on the Clarion River near Ridgway is the worst-off of the Corps’ 16 dams in the region, according to an assessment, so officials will hold a public meeting Monday to talk about it. As part of a nationwide evaluation of its 610 dams, the Corps checked out the ones in the Pittsburgh region and found none in its worst category, which would require immediate action. But

the East Branch Dam made it onto the second-worst list because it had a significant seepage problem 50 years ago and has not been updated since.

Source:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08081/866837-85.stm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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